

LEWIS, KING, KRIEG & WALDROP, P.C. Attorneys at Law One Centre Square, Fifth Floor 620 Market Street Post Office Box 2425 Knoxville, TN 37901 T: (865) 546-4646 F: (865) 523-6529

February 8, 2008

<u>Via Certified Mail</u> Return Receipt Requested

Appeal of Enforcement Order TDEC-OGC L & C Tower, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor 401 Church Street Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1548

Re:

Petition for Appeal

Director's Order NO. WPC07-0264

Knox County, Tennessee

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find Sequoyah Limited, LLC's Petition for Appeal of Commissioner's Order and Assessment and Request for Hearing Before the Tennessee Water Quality Control Board as referenced above. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

LEWIS, KING, KRIEG & WALDROP, P.C.

Jimmy D. Holbrook, Jr.

for the Eirm

DI//(865) 541-5289

jhollcrook@lewisking.com

JDH/maa

Enclosure

cc: Cary Ratliff (with enclosure)

|Knoxville |Nashville |Sevierville

### STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
SEQUOYAH LIMITED, LLC, and D. R. PHILLIPS, LLC	) )	
RESPONDENTS.	)	CASE NO. WPC07-0264

# PETITION FOR APPEAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ORDER AND ASSESSMENT AND REQUEST FOR HEARING BEFORE THE TENNESSSEE WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

Sequoyah Limited, LLC, (hereinafter "Respondent") hereby files this Petition for Appeal of the Order and Assessment dated January 14, 2008, and requests a hearing before the Tennessee Water Quality Control Board pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 69-3-101, et seq., Tennessee Code Annotated § 69-3-109, Tennessee Code Annotated § 69-3-110, and Tennessee Code Annotated § 4-5-301, et seq. By this Petition and request for hearing, Respondent appeals the "Director's Order and Assessment," dated January 14, 2008 ("Order") and requests that the Water Quality Control Board ("Board") conduct a hearing on this Petition.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 1. The Director, Division of Water Pollution Control, on behalf of the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation ("TDEC") issued an order and assessment against Respondent dated January 14, 2008.
  - 2. Respondent received the Order and Assessment on or about January 18, 2008.

- 3. Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 69-3-109, this Petition has been timely filed.
- 4. Respondent, Sequoyah Limited, LLC, is a Tennessee Limited Liability Company in good standing doing business in Knox County, Tennessee.

#### RESPONDENT'S GROUNDS FOR APPEAL

- I. RESPONDENT IS NOT THE OWNER OF THE SUBJECT COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT LOCATED ON OR ABOUT SCHAEFFER ROAD IN KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE.
- 5. As confirmed by the real property records contained in the Register of Deeds' Office for Knox County, Tennessee, the Respondent is not now nor has it ever been the owner of the subject real property.
- II. RESPONDENT RESPONDED PROMPTLY TO ALL NOTICES OF VIOLATIONS AND PERFORMED CORRECTIVE ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS REASONABLE UNDERSTANDING OF ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH DIVISION PERSONNEL.
- 6. Respondent asserts that the facts as listed in the Director's Order and Assessment confirm that the Respondent promptly responded to every NOV issued regarding the subject property. Respondent further promptly met with and otherwise discussed with division personnel various corrective action plans which it then implemented to the best of its understanding of its communications with division personnel. The Respondent has no record of receiving an alleged e-mail, dated November 19, 2007, from the division.
- 7. It has been and continues to be the standard practice of the Respondent to comply with TDEC regulations and promptly respond to any concerns of TDEC personnel and ultimately to promptly implement any corrective action that may be necessary on any given project. The prompt responses and implementation of corrective action as understood by the Respondent in

regards to the subject property demonstrate Respondent's policy of TDEC compliance. The Respondent wants to continue to cooperate with TDEC in regards to the subject property going forward.

## III. NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL HARM HAS BEEN SHOWN TO HAVE OCCURRED DUE TO ANY OF THE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

- 8. Respondent avers that there has been no showing of any significant environmental impact of the alleged technical violations asserted against the Respondent. There has been no known loss or destruction of wildlife, fish, or other aquatic life, nor the significant lowering of any water quality of Plum Creek such that the health and safety of wildlife or the public at large would be affected.
- IV. THE DIRECTOR ABUSED HIS DISCRETION AND ACTED ARBITRARILY AND CAPRICIOUSLY IN ASSESSING A CIVIL PENALTY OF \$20,500.00 FOR THE VIOLATIONS ALLEGED IN THE ORDER AND ASSESSMENT AND \$617.12 IN DAMAGES.
- 9. The civil penalty of \$20,500.00, as well as the \$617.12 in damages for the violations alleged is unduly burdensome, arbitrary, capricious, and an abuse of discretion.

#### WHEREFORE, Respondent hereby requests the following relief:

- 1. That the division, Office of General Counsel, and other TDEC personnel meet with the Respondent to address and negotiate appropriate further corrective action to be required by the division as well as the appropriateness and/or necessity of any civil penalties, damages, or other relief.
- 2. If the negotiations requested above do not result in a mutually agreeable resolution of this Order and Assessment, that the Board hold a hearing on this appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

Jimmy D. Holbrook, Jr., Esq. (BPR #018038) XEWIS, KING, KRIEG & WALDROP, P.C.

One Centre Square

620 Market Street, Fifth Floor

(P. O. Box 2425

Knoxville, Tennessee 37901

(865) 546-4646

Attorney for Respondent, Sequoyah Limited, LLC

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been served on the following counsel of record in the manner of service indicated below:

By placing postage prepaid envelope in United States Mail Service, addressed to:

The Honorable Jim Fyke, Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
L&C Annex, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Mr. Paul E. Davis, P.E., Director Division of Water Pollution Control Technical Secretary – Tennessee Water Control Board L&C Annex, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor 401 Church Street Nashville, TN 37243

Patrick N. Parker, IV, Esq.
Office of General Counsel
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
L&C Tower, 20th Floor
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37204

This the 8th day of Jebruary, 2008.

Jimmy D. Holbrook, Jr.